

RELENTLESS PURSUIT



MESSAGE NOTES

Danny Anderson
Relentless Pursuit, week 4

God wants you to relentlessly pursue Him.

- *Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!*
- Psalm 105:4
- *You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.*
-Jeremiah 29:13

We only seek and search for things that we know have value.

- *"Blessing and honor and glory and power belong to the one sitting on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever."* - Revelation 5:13

We settle.

- *You have given me greater joy than those who have abundant harvests of grain and new wine.* - Psalm 4:7
- *Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.* - Psalm 73:25
- *O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water.* - Psalm 63:1
- *You satisfy me more than the richest feast. I will praise you with songs of joy.* - Psalm 63:5

When we are thoroughly convinced that God is what we need, we will seek Him.

- *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.* - Matthew 6:33
- *"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."* - Matthew 13:44

1. The treasure of God.

- *Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life."* - John 4:13-14

2. The treasure of being part of what God is doing.

How do I access the Kingdom of God?

1. Take the words of Scripture into our mind and heart.

- *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing, and perfect will.*
- Romans 12:2

2. Practice solitude.

3. Practice silence.

4. Practice fasting.

5. Look around.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING			
One Year New Testament	SUNDAY John 3:1-21	MONDAY John 3:22 - 4:3	TUESDAY John 4:4-42
This Week →	May 3	May 4	May 5
WEDNESDAY John 4:43-54	THURSDAY John 5:1-23	FRIDAY John 5:24-47	SATURDAY John 6:1-21
May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE: MATTHEW 6:33

FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

1. Share a time when you lost an item and refused to give up searching for it until it was found. Tell the group why your pursuit of this item was so important that it got your undivided attention.

What keeps people from seeking God with the same intentionality that's given to misplaced keys, lost passports, or any of the other items shared with the group?

READ Psalm 105:4 and Jeremiah 29:13. Scripture makes it clear that followers of Christ are to be constantly seeking and pursuing God. How do you seek Him?

2. Instead of seeking God, people seek many other things. As a result, C.S. Lewis concluded, "We are far too easily pleased." What point was Lewis attempting to make? Can you think of a time in your life when you were "far too easily pleased" and settled for something other than God?"

READ Psalm 42:1. Based on this passage, how would you describe the way the psalmist feels about God? What was the last thing you felt as though you couldn't wait for?

3. READ Matthew 6:33. What does it mean to "seek first the Kingdom of God?" Why is the pursuit of God so important that it deserves first priority – what makes it so valuable?

4. Danny gave us five practices that will help us seek the Kingdom of God – take the words of Scripture into our mind and heart, solitude, silence, fasting, and look around. What are the specific ways each of these practices help us access the Kingdom of God? In what ways are these practices beneficial to us? Share how you may have experienced growth or transformation as you engaged in one of these practices in the past.

What's keeping you from practicing all five of the spiritual practices in the coming week?

5. **Over the next two years, Emmanuel is on a relentless pursuit to create a culture of groups, increase our practical needs efforts, raise the value of service, and reach more people with the gospel. How will you join in?**



Welcome to EMMANUEL CHURCH

Greenwood Campus

May 2 & 3, 2015

GUEST INFORMATION

Please fill out a Connection Card and drop it in the offering bucket. Thank you for being our guest!

As our guest, please do not feel obligated to participate in our offering. Instead we hope that you will receive our gift to you of a comfortable experience and a message that makes sense to you.

LARGE PRINT and HOLE PUNCHED BULLETINS are available at the Information Center in the lobby.

If you have any questions, please visit the Information Center. We would love to meet you!

FOR CHILDREN

Our nurseries and children's program offer a warm, caring, and fun atmosphere for your child. They will be well-supervised and have age-appropriate FUN! Check-in begins 25 minutes before each service.

Our Family Room (by the Information Center) is an option if your child is not comfortable in his or her age-appropriate classroom, or if he or she is restless or fussy in the main auditorium. A private Nursing Mothers Only room is available as you exit the auditorium to the right near the restrooms. A live video feed is available in both areas so you won't miss the service in progress.

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

BANTA

697

GREENWOOD

3,381

TOTAL IMPACT

Both Campuses

Attendance: 4,078

Offering: \$75,589

April Attendance Averages: Banta - 842, Greenwood—3,736

April Giving Average: \$85,716

\$91,000 per week fully funds our 2-Year Vision.